Juris Doctor Degree Program

General Information
Fall 2015
How can I learn more about Cornell Law School?

To start, we invite you to visit our website and to follow us on Twitter and Facebook. We also urge you to ask other Cornell Law students and alumni about their experience. Most of all, we invite you to come visit us in Ithaca to discover for yourself if Cornell is right for you.

facebook.com/CornellLawSchool
twitter.com/CornellLaw
www.lawschool.cornell.edu

“Our aim is to keep its instruction strong, its standard high, and so to produce a fair number of well-trained, large-minded, morally based lawyers in the best sense.”

ANDREW DICKSON WHITE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY’S FIRST PRESIDENT
Lawyers in the Best Sense

More than a century since White's vision, this ideal holds true. A small, top-tier law school located in beautiful surroundings, Cornell Law School draws on, and contributes to, the resources of a great university.

Our students thrive in a diverse, supportive, and intellectually rich community. And, our graduates achieve excellence in all facets of the legal profession. We invite you to see how Cornell Law School matches your vision of what a legal education can be.
“Cornell Law School is a rigorous and vibrant intellectual community. Our students arrive with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences. While at Cornell, they grow through their interactions with one another and with our dedicated and interdisciplinary faculty. They leave able to think about the law systematically and prepared to practice at the highest levels of the profession.”

EDUARDO M. PEÑALVER
ALLAN R. TESSLER DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW
“Law school opened doors. In the time since I’ve left Cornell Law School, I’ve clerked for a federal judge; I’ve practiced corporate law; I now work as in-house counsel at an international NGO. The variety of experiences that I’ve had since law school, none of those would have come to me without the training that I got at Cornell.”

KATINA GRAYS ’02
ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL,
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL
What is Cornell Law School’s most distinctive characteristic?

Our size. A smaller student body means students can interact with their classmates in a meaningful way and have greater access to our faculty.
A Tradition of Teaching and Scholarship

For all its technicality, the law is approached as a humanistic science at Cornell Law School. Students learn the principles, skills, and ethics of being a lawyer and study the context in which laws are made. In examining the current legal system, they are encouraged to evaluate its virtues and defects. They graduate prepared to provide clients with professional service of the highest quality, to help further legal progress and reform, and to become community leaders.

A warm welcome

With about 600 J.D. students in the entire student body, Cornell Law School offers an intimacy and camaraderie that is rare at top law schools. From your first days on campus, you’ll quickly notice that the school is small, the bureaucracy is minimal, and senior administrators maintain an open-door policy.

What to expect

Our law students have analytical minds, excellent judgment, and—most importantly—the ability to think in new and interesting ways. Cornell Law School’s course of study reflects a broad range of ideas—multidisciplinary research, law and economics, feminist theory, for example—and you’re sure to match your interests.

First-year courses emphasize clear thinking, proficient writing, and forceful argumentation. Your studies will also give you an in-depth look at legal research resources like the Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw databases, journal collections, indexes, and extensive Internet resources. The Moot Court Program offers another opportunity to research and write briefs, defend cases orally, and prepare for extracurricular competitions.

After the first year, other than a course in legal ethics and advanced writing, no specific courses are required and students have a vast range of interesting electives from which to choose.

Cornell Law School’s faculty is consistently ranked among the most prolific sources of legal scholarship in the country.
Small classes, large participation

All first-year students have at least one class with no more than 34 students. Research attorneys in the Lawyering Program conduct numerous sessions in small groups of approximately ten students and are also available to students for one-on-one assistance.

Small class size invites active participation: Hear your classmates’ opinions on the ethics of being a lawyer—and share your own. This give-and-take environment allows you to become well acquainted with your professor and promotes a close sense of community.

Rich course offerings

Among top-tier law schools, Cornell Law School is known for excellence in all areas of law and prides itself on the strength of its programs. While other schools specialize, Cornell provides a remarkably wide-ranging curriculum, an uncommon attribute for such a small law school. With more than 160 courses, Cornell Law School offers students ample opportunity to explore such areas as corporate finance, labor law, capital punishment, and immigration and refugee law.
Serena Hsieh J.D. ’14 is an associate at White and Case.
Learn from a Committed and Available Faculty

Just ask any of our students: Cornell Law School professors are committed to the classroom.

If you can’t find a professor in his or her office, just try the library. While Cornell Law School professors often testify before state and federal legislative bodies and serve as expert witnesses, their primary contribution to society is their teaching and scholarship.

Cornell Law School faculty members are prolific legal scholars, and produce widely used texts and oft-cited commentary. Most faculty members are published authors or editors of empirical studies, economic analyses, historical studies, philosophical inquiries, or doctrinal investigations. Many have written or edited casebooks and treatises on a variety of aspects of American law, contributing to the dialogue at every law school in the country. What does all of this mean for you? This abundance of research and writing engenders a lively exchange of ideas—and provides wonderful opportunities for law students to serve as research assistants.

9.9 to 1
student to faculty ratio, one of the lowest for U.S. law schools
Learn from a Committed and Available Faculty

Personal attention

Our low student/faculty ratio encourages an informal advising system, matching like-minded professors and students. You’ll be encouraged to drop in on your professors, and it’s not uncommon for your first-year small-section professor to become your informal advisor. You won’t be a number. Professors will quickly learn your name and become interested to hear about your coursework, curriculum, and career plans.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, 86% of courses had an enrollment of under 50 students and 81% of courses had an enrollment of under 40 students.
“Teaching is the most rewarding part of my day, and our students are the school’s greatest asset—hardworking and respectful of each other and their professors.”

BARBARA J. HOLDEN-SMITH
VICE DEAN AND
PROFESSOR OF LAW
“Coming to Cornell will do wonderful things for you. You’ll see that the energy of this place is devoted to learning about the law, which will breed in you a kind of enthusiasm that will motivate you throughout your career.”

MICHAEL C. DORF
ROBERT S. STEVENS PROFESSOR OF LAW
How would you describe the academic environment at the Law School?

Most students describe the academic environment as collegial. Students view one another as colleagues instead of competitors. The Law School’s administration fosters this environment by not ranking law students and by utilizing a complete lottery system for employer interviews.

Extend Your Opportunities

Legal Information Institute

More than twenty years ago, Cornell Law School’s Legal Information Institute (LII) was the first organization to provide free access to legal information on the Internet. Today, the LII combines cutting-edge technology with top-notch legal expertise to serve a yearly audience of more than 14 million unique visitors from 200 countries. Over 1.5 million web pages worldwide link to the LII.

The LII also publishes the LII Supreme Court Bulletin—a student-written and edited online publication—that offers commentary on all Supreme Court cases before they are argued. More than 20,000 e-mail subscribers read the Bulletin, and another 17,000 lawyers, judges, and members of Congress receive it as a regular feature in The Federal Lawyer, the magazine of the Federal Bar Association.

Rich resources

You’ll find Cornell’s Law Library a spectacle to behold: Look up and you’ll be impressed with the building’s architectural splendor. Look around and you’ll find an outstanding collection managed by a professional staff, six of whom hold dual library science and law degrees.

More than 700,000 books and microforms provide comprehensive coverage of Anglo-American law sources; international, foreign, and comparative law; the British Commonwealth and European countries; and public international law and trade law. Plus, you’ll have access to any of the nineteen Cornell libraries on campus, and a collection exceeding seven million volumes.
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The Journal of Empirical Legal Studies
The Journal of Empirical Legal Studies makes Cornell Law School the publisher of the only legal journal dedicated exclusively to empirical legal scholarship. The journal is co-edited by three Cornell Law School professors and a professor in Cornell University’s Department of Biometrics.

Avon Global Center for Women and Justice
The Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School works with judges, legal professionals, and governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve access to justice in an effort to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Clarke Business Law Institute
The Jack G. Clarke Institute for the Study and Practice of Business Law offers a venue for students to learn from nationally-recognized academics, senior lawyers, regulators, and business leaders, providing a three-dimensional, nuanced view of the business world and the legal issues that affect it.

Special programs

Dual degree programs
A student at the Law School also can take advantage of many of the benefits of being at a world-renowned university. Cornell Law School and Cornell University offer many combined degree programs, including the four-year J.D./M.B.A. (Business), J.D./M.P.A. (Public Affairs), J.D./M.I.L.R. (Labor Relations), J.D./M.R.P. (City and Regional Planning), and J.D./Ph.D. in a wide variety of fields. Law students can take as many as 12 credits outside the Law School. Cornell Law School recently added an accelerated three-year joint J.D./M.B.A. with the Johnson Graduate School of Management, as well as a six-year joint J.D./Ph.D. (Human Development and Law) with the College of Human Ecology.
Can a law student take other classes at Cornell University?

We encourage students to take a multidisciplinary approach to their legal education, and Cornell offers courses in more than 100 fields of study.
Is the library a long walk from the Law School?

The Cornell Law Library is literally at the heart of the Law School, surrounded by our classrooms and other meeting spaces. With more than 700,000 volumes and access to numerous online resources, the Law Library will play a central role in your student experience at Cornell.
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Focus Your Career Path

The personal touch

The Career Services Office will work with you from the time you arrive through graduation and beyond. You’ll be encouraged to focus on self-assessment and to acquire a broad base of knowledge about your options. Counselors will assist you in arranging your own individualized job-search strategy. You will also be invited to attend group workshops on résumé and cover-letter writing, development of successful interview techniques, and strategies for effective networking. The Career Services Office also arranges a wide range of programs and panels that provide guidance on particular types of law practice, job-search skills, debt-management, lifestyle choices, and more.

Job fairs and on-campus interviewing

The Career Services Office invests significant resources in putting you in contact with preeminent employers, in both the private and public sectors, through job fairs held across the country and on-campus interviews. Last year, our students participated in hundreds of interviews and attended job fairs in locations including Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York City, and Washington, D.C.

Alumni connections

The Law School’s close-knit community continues even after graduation. The Career Services Office sponsors a mentoring network by providing access to a group of alumni who have volunteered to provide advice about career prospects, practice areas, and the legal job market. Hundreds of alumni from all over the country have been involved. The winter Alumni/ae Shadow and summer Mock Interview Programs allow students to pair up with alumni over winter and summer breaks to find out what a day in the life of a lawyer is really like and to hone their interviewing skills.

Success

Last year’s graduates secured jobs across the country and around the world. New York City (the largest legal market in the world) topped the list, with the West Coast—particularly Los Angeles and San Francisco—coming in second. Median starting salaries were $160,000 for private sector positions and $59,000 for those in the public sector. About 15 percent of the graduating class secured prestigious clerkships with federal or state judges.
Jonathan Goddard J.D. ’14 will be working as a law clerk for Chief Judge Karen Caldwell of the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Kentucky before joining Perkins Coie as an associate.

For more detailed statistics, visit www.lawschool.cornell.edu/careers/aboutus/statistics.cfm
What do law students do after they graduate?

Many Law School graduates will work in the private sector at a large law firm in a large urban area immediately after law school. Over ten percent will obtain a judicial clerkship, and a smaller percentage of graduates will obtain a position in public service.
“My Cornell degree definitely gives me an advantage over other law schools. You’re a Cornell lawyer; you must be good, and they’ll at least give you a look getting in the door. And I know from my own experience, I’ll give other Cornell lawyers a look simply because they went here. It really was a great investment.”

PAT RAO ’94
ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL, CARRIER CORPORATION
“The education you receive here is focused on the rest of your life; it’s a marathon, not a sprint. The idea is to give you the basic tools, the thought process, the understanding of the law, and the perspective to be able to approach new problems over the course of your career, for the rest of your life.”

CHARLES K. WHITEHEAD
PROFESSOR OF LAW
Modern legal education must train students to succeed in an increasingly transnational environment. Mastery of a single nation’s system of laws is not adequate for the practice of law in the 21st century. Cornell Law School provides students with the skills and opportunities necessary for success in a world increasingly marked by the mobility of ideas, people, and capital.

**International law: a Cornell Law School tradition**

Cornell Law School has maintained an international perspective ever since its doors opened in 1887. The required curriculum included lectures in Roman law as well as international law. Two students from Japan were among the entering class. The Law School’s faculty and students quickly established a presence in national and international affairs.

**Cornell Law School commitment: world peace through law**

The most prominent feature of Myron Taylor Hall is the Peace Tower, a symbol of post–World War I aspirations—world peace through international law. Those aspirations have grown ever more central to Cornell Law School’s mission. Contemporary understanding of the complexities facing the world’s legal and business communities, policymakers, and public-service organizations has resulted in a legal–education program at Cornell Law School devoted to a comprehensive vision that includes multinational economic cooperation and development, human rights, environmental preservation, and increased understanding among the world’s culturally diverse nations and regions.

**International and Comparative Legal Studies Program**

The past decade has been a period of remarkable energy and growth in Cornell Law School’s distinctive international and comparative legal studies programs. Supported by generous endowments from loyal alumni, Cornell Law School faculty created some of the foremost international legal programs in the country.

**The Berger International Legal Studies Program**

The Berger International Legal Studies Program sponsors dual-degree programs in Paris, Berlin and Shanghai; exchange programs with universities across Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South America, and in Australia; international conferences abroad and at Cornell; international visiting scholars; and, an extensive speaker program at the Law School.
Cornell in Paris

Together with the Sorbonne Law School of Université Paris I Panthéon–Sorbonne, Cornell Law School offers a five-week Summer Institute in Paris featuring courses in international and comparative law. The Law School has also established the Cornell Center for Documentation on American Law at the Cour de cassation—France’s highest civil and criminal court—and has initiated the first-ever judicial clerkship with the Consell d’Etat—France’s highest administrative court.

The Clarke Program in East Asian Law and Culture

This unique program brings an interdisciplinary and humanistic focus to the study of law in East Asia. Through research, teaching, and scholarly dialogue, it seeks to expand the purview of legal scholarship and to develop new ways of thinking about transnational law, politics, and culture. It has supported conferences, professional travel, visiting and adjunct faculty members, scholarships for exceptional students from this region, additional library materials dedicated to East Asia, and speakers who address current legal issues.

The Clarke Center for International and Comparative Legal Studies

The Clarke Center for International and Comparative Legal Studies provides an infrastructure to support faculty and student initiatives. It also funds international alumni activities and enhancement of the Law Library’s international and comparative collections, furthering the library’s status as an online resource of first resort for lawyers around the world.

Clarke Initiative for Law and Development in the Middle East and North Africa

The Clarke Initiative brings together scholars interested in law and development in the Middle East. It sponsors seminars, colloquia, and lectures and supports student and faculty exchanges with institutions in the region.

Study Abroad Opportunities

ARGENTINA  FRANCE  JAPAN
AUSTRALIA  GERMANY  THE NETHERLANDS
CHILE  HUNGARY  NORWAY
CHINA  INDIA  PORTUGAL
EGYPT  ISRAEL  SOUTH AFRICA
ENGLAND  ITALY  SPAIN

20% of an average class spends a semester or longer abroad

50-60 lectures, conferences, colloquia, and symposia held by CU Law involving international or comparative law
What are the study abroad options at the Law School?

Students can study abroad at one of the 25 partner schools.
The J.D. with Specialization in International Legal Affairs will prepare you for international private practice, business, or government service.

The J.D./LL.M. in International and Comparative Law is a more comprehensive approach and requires 20 credits more than the standard J.D. This program also includes a summer session at the Cornell–Paris I Summer Institute.

The J.D./LL.M. is a dual three-year degree with Pretoria University in South Africa, leading to the award of both the J.D. degree and the LL.M. degree (with several specializations to choose from).

The J.D./LL.M. is a dual three-year degree with Heidelberg University in Germany, leading to the award of both the J.D. degree and LL.M. degree.

The French J.D./Master en Droit prepares you to qualify for the bar in the United States and France, earning both the U.S. J.D. and the French equivalent. One of only two such programs in the nation, students complete two years of study at Cornell followed by two years at the Université Paris I Panthéon–Sorbonne.

The J.D./M. LLP (Master of German and European Law and Practice) combines a U.S. law degree with a degree in German and European law and practice. Students spend two years at Cornell followed by one year at Humboldt University in Berlin.
What is there to do at Cornell?

More than 35 student organizations, numerous lectures, programs, panels, social activities, and other events will keep you busy. Outside of the Law School, more than 19,000 Cornell University students support intercollegiate sports, the fine and performing arts, Greek life, and more.
“The practice of law is decidedly transnational. To be successful, a lawyer needs to be able to work with foreign clients, analyze foreign law, and solve problems in a transnational context. Our focus on ‘law and culture’ prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of practicing law in a globalized world.”

ANNELISE RILES
JACK G. CLARKE CHAIR IN FAR EAST LEGAL STUDIES AND PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY
“International law is increasingly important in very specific disputes or cases, but it also affects some of the most important and pressing questions we face as a society. This puts us at the forefront of social change.”

CHANTAL THOMAS
PROFESSOR OF LAW
Public Interest Law

Cornell Law School graduates have served the nation and the world through careers in public interest law for more than 100 years. The Public Interest Law Program is continuing this tradition of public service, devoting a wealth of resources to the academic curriculum, including practice-oriented courses, clinics, externship opportunities, specialized public interest career counseling services, the support of public interest student organizations, and economic assistance to graduates who choose public interest practice.

Externships and clinical learning

Client clinics and externships for academic credit represent the intersection of legal theory and practice. The Law School offers various client clinics in which students can engage in all phases of client representation, such as litigation planning, interviewing, counseling, legal drafting, negotiating, discovery, and trial and appellate advocacy. Student practitioners can be admitted to the New York bar as law interns and function under the direct supervision of full-time clinical faculty members. More than 50 percent of our students recognize the importance of participating in for-credit clinical programs prior to graduation.

In addition to live-client clinics, students can develop and hone their legal skills by participating in local or semester-away externships.
Cristina Laramee JD ’14 is the Cornell Law Frank T. Rhodes Public Interest Fellow with The Bronx Defenders.
Public interest career and financial assistance

The Office of Public Service offers students an abundance of information on how to pursue public interest and government employment. In addition to individual counseling, activities range from job search workshops and mock interview sessions to a Public Interest Law Career Symposium featuring alumni practitioners. Student organizations are also involved in public interest activities. Recent student activities include an annual Public Interest Expo that highlights various public service employers and the annual Public Interest Cabaret that raises funds for Summer Public Interest Fellowships, available for students who work at public interest organizations and government agencies during the summer. Cornell Law School offers several sources of assistance to those who choose public interest practice. Through one of the nation’s most generous loan repayment programs, the Public Interest Low Income Protection Plan (PILIPP) provides sizable grants to help with the payment of student loans.

Recent specialized clinics
- Advanced Human Rights Clinic
- Advanced Labor Law
- Capital Punishment Clinic 1 & 2
- Capital Punishment: Post Conviction Litigation
- Child Advocacy Clinic
- Criminal Defense Trial Clinic
- e-Government Clinic 1 & 2
- Immigration Appellate Law and Advocacy Clinic
- Innocence Clinic
- International Human Rights Clinic
- Juvenile Justice Clinic
- Labor Law Clinic
- Land Use, Development, and Natural Resource Protection Clinic
- LGBT Clinic
- Prosecution Trial Clinic
- Regulation Room
- Securities Law Clinics 1, 2, and 3
- U.S. Attorney's Office Clinics 1 and 2
- Water Law in Theory and Practice 1

Local externships
- Judicial Externship
- Law Guardian Externship
- Legislative Externship
- Neighborhood Legal Services Externship

Full semester externships

Students can pursue full-semester externships at places such as the Legal Aid Society, the National Football League, the Manhattan DA's Office, and the ACLU.
What are the public interest opportunities at the Law School?

The Office of Public Service assists students with pro bono activities, career planning, programming, employment funding, and academic counseling. After graduation, they facilitate a student’s entry into public service employment and offer a generous Public Interest Low Income Repayment Program.
“What makes Cornell’s Death Penalty Project unique is we utilize students in a variety of ways, much as if they were practicing lawyers working on a capital defense team. And the students respond with truly amazing work on behalf of our clients. Teaching and working with the students in the Death Penalty Project is one of the most satisfying aspects of my work.”

JOHN H. BLUME
PROFESSOR OF LAW, DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL, ADVOCACY AND SKILLS PROGRAMS, AND DIRECTOR OF THE CORNELL DEATH PENALTY PROJECT
“Throughout my career, from representing LGBT youth in foster care and to same-sex couples seeking the freedom to marry, I have been grateful for the incredible opportunities, guidance, inspiration, and support I received as a student at Cornell Law School, which combines intellectual rigor with a genuine commitment to innovation and social responsibility.”

SHANNON PRICE MINTER J.D. ‘93
LEGAL DIRECTOR
OF THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS
Take Action: Get Involved

A multitude of activities
Cornell Law School has an energetic student population, with dozens of activities from which to choose, including chapters of national law-affiliated societies. Students also enjoy the variety of opportunities that Cornell University offers for physical fitness, entertainment, student services, and other pursuits, including the Public Service Center, the Cornell United Religious Work, and the Women’s Resource Center.

Diversity
Active organizations offer support and information for our students of color. With the Law School’s support, these groups sponsor workshops, seminars, panel discussions, conferences, and moot court competitions. Each has affiliations with similar groups at law schools across the nation, and Cornell chapters invariably supply leaders who address issues of national concern and shape the dialogue.

Selected student organizations
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Society
- American Constitution Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)
- Bioethics and Health Law Society
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Briggs Society of International Law
- Business Law Society
- Christian Legal Society
- Cornell Advocates for Human Rights
- Cornell Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Cornell Fashion Law Society
- Cornell International Law Journal
- Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy
- Cornell Law Democrats
- Cornell Law Republicans
- Cornell Law Review
- Cornell Law School Co-Counsel
- Cornell Law Spring Service Trip
- Cornell Law Students Association
- Cornell Mock Trial Board
- Environmental Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Intellectual Property and Technology Student Association
- JD-MBA Association
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society—Cornell Law School Chapter
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Lambda Law (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Allies Students Association)
- Latino American Law Students Association (LALSA)
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Legal Information Institute
- LLM Association
- Moot Court Board
- Ms. JD
- Muslim Law Society
- National Lawyers Guild
- National Security Law Society
- Native American Law Students Association
- Phi Alpha Delta
- Public Interest Law Union (PILU)
- South Asian Law Student Association
- Sports & Entertainment Law Society
- Transfer Network Association
- Women’s Law Coalition (WLC)
First-year Class of 2013-2014:

- 195 enrolled J.D. students
- 109 different undergraduate institutions attended
- 45% students of color
- 35 undergraduate majors studied
- 49% women
- 29 states represented
Study at a Cosmopolitan University in a Beautiful Setting

Plenty to see, plenty to do

If you’re looking for something to do in Ithaca, you won’t have to look far. Our political and intellectual community attracts some of the most well-known names in music: Ke$h, Ludacris, Bob Dylan, Cee Lo Green, Nelly, Drake, and The Flaming Lips have all made recent tour stops here. Or enjoy a lecture by some of today’s hottest names in cultural, political, and popular thought—like Kevin Smith, Maya Angelou, Hillary Clinton, Karen Armstrong, Jon Stewart, Karl Rove, Henry Paulson, Dan Savage, Keith Olbermann, Stephen Colbert and Margaret Atwood, to name just a few.

On campus

Myron Taylor Hall, home to the Law School, is one of Cornell’s most impressive Gothic complexes, with lecture, seminar, and conference rooms; the Law Library; a moot court auditorium; a four-story atrium; and many amenities.

Cornell University overlooks Cayuga Lake, and many gorges and waterfalls are just steps from campus. As the largest Ivy League university, the 2300 acre campus comprises six graduate and professional schools and seven undergraduate colleges. The Law School benefits from its close association with the university’s research and instructional facilities.

Out and about

Sample the local produce at the Ithaca Farmers Market, browse eclectic gifts or used books on the Commons, or catch a national touring band at the State Theater. Hike eight miles north to Taughannock Falls, the tallest waterfall in the northeast, or any of the area’s countless other waterfalls and parks.

Explore Collegetown’s ethnic restaurants, nightclubs, bars, pizzerias—all just steps from campus. Rent a kayak or take a sailing lesson on Cayuga Lake. Visit one of the area’s 80+ wineries surrounding the beautiful Finger Lakes, or make a stop at the Ithaca Beer Company or Bellwether Hard Cider.

Housing options

About one-quarter of all first-year students opt to live in Hughes Hall, the Law School residence adjacent to Myron Taylor Hall. Living on campus means an easy commute to classes (just down the hall) and all-hours access to the Law Library and its extensive resources. Or, take advantage of the university-operated housing, private homes, apartments, and cooperatives in Ithaca.
Top 5 Best Things about Ithaca

1 | **International flavor**
You’ll meet people from all over the world—graduate students, scholars, and families—and dine at restaurants that offer menus representing more than a dozen cuisines.

2 | **Vibrant arts community**
Take your pick from attending an opening at Cornell’s Johnson Museum of Art, visiting one of the fifty-nine artists on the Greater Ithaca Art Trail, a play at one of the city’s theatres, or one of hundreds of concerts or recitals.

3 | **Active nightlife**
Ithaca offers plenty of movie theatres, cafes, and nightclubs to enjoy for some time to yourself or for a night out with your Law School cohorts.

4 | **Cost of living**
You’ll quickly discover that area rent and lifestyle expenses are below the national average, and numerous campus and local events are inexpensive or free, even many that feature world-renowned guests.

5 | **Small world**
Whether you’re on campus or downtown, you’re sure to run into a dozen people that you know.
Puja V. Parikh ’14 is an associate at Latham & Watkins.

### Top 5 Best Things about Ithaca

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Admissions

Admission to Cornell Law School is highly competitive. Students entering in Fall 2013 were top students from colleges and universities around the world and had median LSAT scores that placed them in the 94th percentile (167). However, we don’t evaluate candidates by numbers alone: We also carefully consider extracurricular and community activities, life experience, work background, and recommendations. We subscribe to Cornell’s long-standing tradition of affirmative action, and members of traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic groups are encouraged to discuss their status where they think it relevant. Please apply to Cornell Law School by visiting www.lsac.org.

Financial aid procedures
All applicants for financial assistance (including loans and/or institutional grants) must complete the Cornell Law School Financial Aid Application at: www.lawschool.cornell.edu/admissions/. All applicants for financial assistance (including loans) must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.gov. Our Title IV number is 002711. All applicants for financial assistance (institutional grants) from the Law School must complete the Need Access Application at www.needaccess.org. In order for applicants to qualify for institutional grants, their analyzed financial aid information must be received no later than March 16, 2015. If tax forms have not been filed, estimated figures can be used. A student who does not apply for an institutional grant before enrolling in their first year of law school will not receive an institutional grant during the second and third year, except in extremely unusual situations.

Transfer students
Students who have a strong academic record at an approved law school, are in good standing after one year, and satisfy all the entrance requirements for study at Cornell Law School may qualify for transfer. Most successful transfer students rank in the top 10 percent of their class. There may be room for five to ten qualified transfer students in the second-year class but the exact number is usually not known until late summer. Applications must be submitted by July 15, 2015. Every effort is made to notify applicants by August 1, 2015. Please note that transfer students are not eligible for financial aid in their first year at Cornell Law School but can receive need-based loan assistance. Transfer students may become eligible for both loan and institutional grant during their final year.

Financial support
We believe that financial constraints should not discourage anyone from applying or attending. Our financial aid program supports this objective, offering a combination of institutional based grants as well as access to federal and private loans. Almost 50 percent of our students receive institutional grants and more than that receive loans. Students who elect to take public-interest or public-sector jobs (which traditionally pay less) can repay their loans under one of the most generous loan-forgiveness programs in the country. For more information about financing a Cornell legal education visit our website.
What is Ithaca like?

The slogan "Ithaca is Gorges" was coined a few decades ago, but the sentiment continues today. One of the most culturally progressive small cities in America, Ithaca has received numerous accolades for having a high overall quality of life. Outside of the Cornell campus, the City of Ithaca is bounded by a few state parks and boasts more restaurants per capita than New York City.
What is the Ithaca weather like?

Well the first interesting fact is that it never snows in Ithaca. But seriously, the Ithaca weather provides for a variety of outdoor activities, ranging from boating, swimming and hiking in the summer to cross country skiing and ice skating in the winter. The average temperature is 80°F in July and 31°F in January. Average yearly rainfall is 35.4 inches, and the average snowfall is 67.3 inches.
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2014-2015 TUITION & EXPENSES

Tuition: $59,360
Student activity fee: $81
Room and board: $11,250
Books and supplies: $1,100
Personal/Travel: $5,000
Health Insurance: $2,433
Loan Fee: $205

These figures are for the 2014-2015 academic year. Total expenses, including tuition, are estimated at $79,429.

For more information please visit:
http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/admissions

2014-2015 IMPORTANT DEADLINES

APPLICATION

Binding early decision — round I:
November 1, 2014
(LSAT not later than October test)

Binding early decision — round II:
January 4, 2015
(LSAT not later than December test)

Regular decision deadline: Feb. 1, 2015

Transfer deadline: July 15, 2015

Financial aid: March 16, 2015
Please feel free to call or email the appropriate office regarding admissions, career placement assistance, getting in touch with alumni, or any other questions you might have.

Admissions/Financial Aid
607 255-5141
JDAdmissions@cornell.edu

Career Services Office
607 255-3597
jrd29@cornell.edu

Registrar/Dean of Students
607 255-7190
law.registrar@cornell.edu

Alumni Relations
607 255-5251
law.alumni@cornell.edu

Law School Development Office
607 255-5877

ON THE WEB

Cornell Law School
www.lawschool.cornell.edu

Law School Admission Council
www.lsac.org

Career Services Office
www.lawschool.cornell.edu/careers/index.cfm

Law Library
library.lawschool.cornell.edu/

Legal Information Institute
www.law.cornell.edu

It is the policy of Cornell University to actively support equality of educational and employment opportunity. No person shall be denied admission to any educational program or activity or be denied employment on the basis of any legally prohibited discrimination involving, but not limited to, such factors as race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, or handicap. The university is committed to the maintenance of affirmative-action programs that will assure the continuation of such equality of opportunity. Sexual harassment is an act of discrimination and, as such, will not be tolerated. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX can be referred to the director of the Office of Workforce Diversity, Equity and Life Quality, Cornell University, 160 Day Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-2801 (telephone: 607 255-3976; TDD: 607 255-7066).

Requests for information about services for Cornell faculty and staff members, applicants for employment, and visitors with disabilities who have special needs, as well as related questions or requests for special assistance, can be directed to Worker’s Compensation and Disability Services, Cornell University, Surge 3 facility, Ithaca, NY 14853-5700 (telephone: 607 255-1503 or 607 255-9587). Students with disabilities should contact Student Disability Services, Center for Learning and Teaching, Cornell University, 420 Computing and Communications Center, Ithaca, NY 14853-6601 (telephone: 607 254-4545; TDD: 607 255-7665).
Professor Muna Ndulo, an authority on African legal systems, human rights, and constitution making, teaches courses in International Criminal Law, Foreign Investment, and Human Rights and directs Cornell’s Institute for African Development.
“The doors of opportunity have been opened through the many connections I have made at Cornell Law. I entered the legal profession confidently grounded, yet knowing no limits to success.”
“I didn’t think of myself as a likely candidate to become a judge. But I have a Cornell Law degree, lots of experience; I’m absolutely qualified. So I said ‘Why not me, and why not now?’”

DEBRA JAMES J.D. ’78
NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
Does Cornell Law School offer dual degrees?

As the largest and most academically diverse Ivy League university, Cornell University offers many dual degree options for law students, including J.D./M.B.A. (business administration), J.D./M.P.A. (public affairs), and J.D./M.R.P. (regional planning).
The Best People Make the Best Lawyers

Choosing a law school is a difficult challenge. If your aspiration is to become a lawyer “in the best sense,” Cornell Law School is a great choice. Students come to Cornell because they want to be lawyers for all the right reasons. They want to change the world, seek justice and fairness, help the community, and become the best they can be. If this vision matches yours, Cornell is your law school.

Cornell Law School
Lawyers in the Best Sense
www.lawschool.cornell.edu
“Our aim is to keep its instruction strong, its standard high, and so to produce a fair number of well-trained, large-minded, morally based lawyers in the best sense.”

ANDREW DICKSON WHITE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY’S FIRST PRESIDENT